



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
FIRST RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION (REIN)  
FIRST MARINE DIVISION  
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1610  
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15 May 08

COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY LETTER 010-08

From: Commanding Officer, 1<sup>ST</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion  
To: Distribution List

Subj: BATTALION HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT POLICY

Ref: (a) MCO P1900.16  
(b) Maradmin 259/02  
(c) Maradmin 451/02

1. Purpose. To establish policy on homosexual conduct within 1<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion as identified in reference (a) as the sole Marine Corps Order governing Homosexual conduct.
2. Background. References (a), (b) and (c) outline the task, responsibilities and requirements to conduct required homosexual conduct policy briefings for the Marines of 1<sup>st</sup> reconnaissance Battalion.
3. Policy. The Marines of 1<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion are mandated to conduct required homosexual conduct training between their 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> month of active duty service. Company Commanders will ensure that the following topics are covered at a minimum during those times. Review of applicable laws and regulations covering homosexuality, Review of Core values, procedures for reporting mistreatment, and review any changes to the published policies.

a. Here at 1<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion no Marine will be asked whether he is heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual. Sexual orientation is a personal and private matter. Homosexual conduct includes a homosexual act, a statement by the member that demonstrates a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts, or a homosexual marriage or attempted marriage. Homosexual conduct is incompatible with military service and is grounds for denying enlistment or appointment and for separation from the service.

4. Reporting Mistreatment. In concert with our core values, all Marines will be treated with dignity and respect. Mistreatment of any Marine is considered unacceptable conduct and will be dealt with quickly and appropriately by the command. All Marines will be reminded that they have several avenues with



which to report alleged mistreatment: through the chain of command, to the chaplain, the command inspector, the inspector general of the Marine Corps, and the Department of Defense Inspector General.

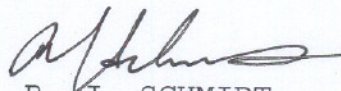
5. Homosexual conduct Investigations. Only company commanders are authorized to initiate a fact-finding inquiry into homosexual conduct. The inquiry is authorized only when credible information exists that there is a basis for discharge.

(a) The fact that a Marine reports being threatened or mistreated because he or she is perceived to be a homosexual does not by itself constitute credible information justifying initiation of an investigation of the reporting service member. Accordingly, no commander will initiate investigation of a service member for homosexual conduct solely because that service member reports being threatened or mistreated because of his or alleged homosexuality. Moreover, such a report will be evaluated the same as any other report of threatening conduct or mistreatment, and the alleged conduct will be investigated and punished at the commander's discretion according to the same criteria used to evaluate similar complaints that do not involve allegations of homosexuality.

(b) In the event that a company commander suspects that a service member has made such a statement for the purpose of seeking separation from Naval Service in order to avoid a service obligation or upcoming deployment, or who believes that the member is not a person who engages in, attempts to engage in, has a propensity to engage in, or intends to engage in homosexual acts, and who desires to initiate an investigation into the truth of the statement, the commander must obtain authorization from the Battalion Commander via the chain of command before initiating a substantial investigation. A request for such authorization must be forwarded.

6. In all homosexual conduct inquiry investigations the Base SJA will be contacted prior to beginning any questioning.

The point of contact for this matter is the Battalion Adjutant at 763-2020.

  
R. J. SCHMIDT  
Acting